



**SPECIAL POINTS OF
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Avian/Pandemic Flu Newsletter

THE OFFICIAL AVIAN INFLUENZA NEWSLETTER OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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AVIAN INFLUENZA: Current Global Situation Update

Avian Influenza Cases in Humans

Since January 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported human cases of Avian Influenza A/ (H5N1) in more than twelve countries like Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Egypt, Djibouti, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Nigeria.

Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza (H5N1)

Cases reported to WHO through June 19, 2008. WHO only reports laboratory-confirmed cases.

- ◆ Total human cases of H5N1 (confirmed) = **385**
- ◆ Total human deaths from H5N1= **243**

http://www.who.int/disease/avian_influenza/cases_2008_06_19.html

Currently, there are no reported human OR animal cases of the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) in United States.

Indonesia - June 19, 2008

The Ministry of Health has announced two new cases of human H5N1 avian influenza infection. The cases are not linked epidemiologically. The first is a 16-year-old female from South Jakarta, DKI Jakarta Province developed symptoms on 7 May, was hospitalized on 12 May and died on 14 May. Investigations into the source of her infection indicate exposure to sick and dead poultry.

The second case is a 34-year-old female from Tangerang District, Banten Province who developed symptoms on May 26th, and was hospitalized on June 2nd and died on June 3rd. Investigations into the source of her infection are ongoing.

Of the 135 cases confirmed to date in Indonesia, 110 have been fatal.

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2008_06_19/en/index.html

China - Jun 17, 2008

China's agriculture ministry today announced an H5N1 avian influenza outbreak at a village in Guangdong province, not far from Hong Kong, where officials recently found the virus in live-bird markets.

The ministry said the outbreak in Guangdong struck 3,873 ducks in Yashan Village, where 17,127 ducks were culled to prevent the spread of the virus, Xinhua, China's state news agency, reported today. The ministry did not say when the outbreak began.

Mainland China's last reported outbreak occurred in early April at a poultry farm in Tibet, according to a report from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). A few weeks before that outbreak, officials reported an outbreak in Guangdong province that hit chickens at a market in the city of Guangzhou.

On Jun 7, animal health officials in Hong Kong, located on Guangdong's south-central border on the Pearl River delta, announced they had found the H5N1 virus in chicken droppings gathered at poultry markets. A few days later they found the virus in droppings at additional markets, which led to the culling of all market poultry.

Authorities suspended all shipments of birds from the mainland and local farms for 3 weeks. Officials haven't yet found the source of the virus.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/avianflu/jun1708.html>

Avian Influenza Cases in Birds

June, 2008

Avian Influenza H5N1 Timeline

http://www.oie.int/H5N1_Timeline.htm

22 Countries Report H5N1 Avian Influenza in Domestic Poultry / Wildlife in 2008

- ◆ Bangladesh
- ◆ Bulgaria
- ◆ China
- ◆ Egypt
- ◆ Germany
- ◆ Hong Kong
- ◆ India
- ◆ Iran
- ◆ Israel
- ◆ Japan
- ◆ Korea (Rep. Of)
- ◆ Laos
- ◆ Nigeria
- ◆ Pakistan
- ◆ Russia
- ◆ Saudi Arabia
- ◆ Switzerland
- ◆ Thailand
- ◆ Turkey
- ◆ Ukraine
- ◆ United Kingdom
- ◆ Vietnam



Updated April 29, 2008

http://www.oie.int/eng/AI_factoids_1.htm

NATIONAL NEWS



U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) June 12, 2008

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded \$12.9 million for the development of low-cost influenza tests that can detect and differentiate seasonal human influenza viruses from avian influenza within three hours.

"The early detection of emerging pandemic influenza is critical to the nation's pandemic response," Secretary Leavitt said. "Early detection will aid in improving patient survival, overall health outcomes, and use of containment measures in the event of an influenza pandemic."

Currently, the process for testing for avian influenza A (H5N1) can take up to 24 hours. These awards will support advanced development of laboratory influenza tests. These tests could be performed in a hospital or a commercial laboratory and would expedite the diagnosis of large numbers of patients. The expanded testing capability enhances the hospital laboratory-based pandemic and seasonal flu diagnostic capacity in the United States. (Continue on page 3)

Hong Kong reports H5N1 at poultry market

Jun 9, 2008

Authorities in Hong Kong recently reported finding H5N1 avian influenza at a poultry market, marking the first detection of the virus in poultry there in more than 2 years.

Animal health officials detected the H5N1 virus in five chicken dropping samples from three poultry stalls, according to a Jun 7 press release from Hong Kong's information services department. Officials ordered all 2,700 birds at the market to be culled and planned to disinfect the market. The release didn't mention whether any chickens were sick or died.

Over the past several years, Hong Kong has filed several reports of individual sick or dead wild birds that tested positive for the H5N1 virus. However, the special administrative region of China hasn't had a major poultry outbreak since 1997, when 18 people were hospitalized with H5N1 infections and 6 died, all after having contact with birds. An avian flu timeline prepared by the World Health Organization says that two chickens in Hong Kong tested positive for H5N1 in the early months of 2006. http://www.oie.int/H5N1_Timeline.htm

York Chow, Hong Kong's secretary for food and health, said in the press release that officials have traced the infected birds to a specific wholesale poultry market, but the chickens could have come from either local or mainland farms. He said imports of live chickens from the mainland and shipments from local sources would stop for 3 weeks to allow authorities to trace the source of the infected birds.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/avianflu/news/jun0908.html>

NATIONAL NEWS (Cont.)

The recipients of the contract awards are: Nanogen, Inc, San Diego, Calif. and Meso Scale Diagnostics, LLC, Gaithersburg, Md., each for \$6.5 million for initial phased development. The contracts provide for funding up to \$10.4 million (Nanogen, Inc.) and \$12.1 million (Meso Scale Diagnostics, LLC) for additional development up to three years.

The two contracts were awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in partnership with the Office of Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. The recipients were selected from among nine responses to the request for proposal.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2008pres/06/20080612a.html>

CDC News Release - June 10, 2008

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released results of a study suggesting that some North American avian influenza A H7 virus strains have properties that might enhance their potential to infect humans as well as their potential to spread from human to human.

The study was recently published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*. Avian influenza A H7 viruses are fairly common in birds, but rarely infect humans. Most cases of avian influenza infection in humans have resulted from contact with infected poultry or contaminated surfaces.

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2008/r080610a.htm>

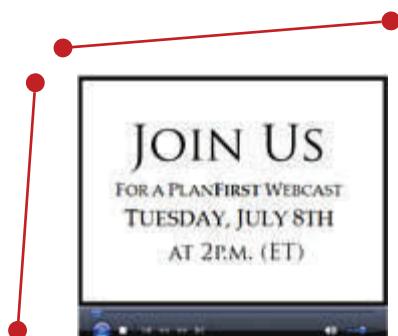
Public Requests

The public is being asked to comment on the draft of 3 guidances:

- ♦ Facemasks and Respirators - Use and Purchase by Individuals and Families
- ♦ Antiviral Drug Use
- ♦ Antiviral Drug Stockpiling by Employers

[More information](#) and Instructions for submitting comments.

Comments are due **on or before July 3, 2008**. <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>



LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

Local News/ Outreach

Activities related to Pandemic Influenza education in San Diego continue with more than 142,691 educational material distributed to various community locations. In addition, more than 141 presentations have been provided to staff and community residents. San Diego will soon begin trainings for its Ambassador Program, an education and outreach effort for train-the-trainers, to educate the general public how to prepare for an influenza pandemic by training peers in businesses, schools, and organizations



PANDEMIC/ AVIAN FLU IN THE MEDIA

CIDRAP News- June 23, 2008

A livestock official in Pakistan confirmed that the H5N1 avian influenza virus has struck again in the country's North-West Frontier province, killing thousands of chickens at a commercial farm. Ibrahim Kahn, a livestock department chief in Swabi district, where the outbreak occurred, said confirmatory tests were performed at a government laboratory in Islamabad, according to a report from Agence France-Presse (AFP).

Kahn told AFP that the farm's owner notified authorities on June 20th about the suspicious deaths of about 4,000 birds. After a laboratory confirmed the H5N1 virus in samples from the birds the next day, authorities sealed the farm and destroyed about 2,000 birds.



PANDEMIC/ AVIAN FLU IN THE MEDIA

Pakistan's health ministry examined workers on the farm, but none appear to be infected with the virus, Kahn told AFP.

In December 2007, H5N1 outbreaks in North-West Frontier province contributed to suspected human-to-human transmission of the virus.

A few days before the new outbreak, Pakistan had filed a final report with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) on outbreaks that occurred sporadically throughout 2007 and into early 2008. The country's last outbreak, which occurred in early March, also hit a commercial chicken farm in North-West Frontier province, near Abbottabad, according to a previous report from the OIE.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/avianflu/news/jun2308.html>

UN official: Bird bio-security lapses could worsen food crisis

CIDRAP News - June 20, 2008

Lax bio-security measures around poultry in some countries could lead to an increasing number of H5N1 avian influenza outbreaks that could exacerbate the global food crisis, an official from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said at an international infectious disease conference in Malaysia today.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/avianflu/news/jun2008meeting.html>

A Clinical Trial of a Whole-Virus H5N1 Vaccine Derived from Cell Culture

The New England Journal of Medicine - June 12, 2008

Background: Widespread infections of avian species with avian influenza H5N1 virus and its limited spread to humans suggest that the virus has the potential to cause a human influenza pandemic. An urgent need exists for an H5N1 vaccine that is effective against divergent strains of H5N1 virus.

Methods: In a randomized, dose-escalation, phase 1 and 2 study involving six subgroups, we investigated the safety of an H5N1 whole-virus vaccine produced on Vero cell cultures and determined its ability to induce antibodies capable of neutralizing various H5N1 strains. In two visits 21 days apart, 275 volunteers between the ages of 18 and 45 years received two doses of vaccine that each contained 3.75 µg, 7.5 µg, 15 µg, or 30 µg of hemagglutinin antigen with alum adjuvant or 7.5 µg or 15 µg of hemagglutinin antigen without adjuvant. Serologic analysis was performed at baseline and on days 21 and 42.

Results: The vaccine induced a neutralizing immune response not only against the clade 1 (A/Vietnam/1203/2004) virus strain but also against the clade 2 and 3 strains. The use of adjuvants did not improve the antibody response. Maximum responses to the vaccine strain were obtained with formulations containing 7.5 µg and 15 µg of hemagglutinin antigen without adjuvant. Mild pain at the injection site (in 9 to 27% of subjects) and headache (in 6 to 31% of subjects) were the most common adverse events identified for all vaccine formulations.

Conclusions: A two-dose vaccine regimen of either 7.5 µg or 15 µg of hemagglutinin antigen without adjuvant induced neutralizing antibodies against diverse H5N1 virus strains in a high percentage of subjects, suggesting that this may be a useful H5N1 vaccine. (ClinicalTrials.gov number, NCT00349141 [ClinicalTrials.gov] .)

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short>

Vaccine Preparedness

The New England of Journal of Medicine - June 12, 2008

The quest for a fully immunogenic vaccine against influenza H5N1 viruses has gone on for more than 10 years, since this family of potentially pandemic viruses emerged as a cause of human disease in Hong Kong in 1997. H5N1 has caused 381 human cases of influenza, with a mortality rate exceeding 60%. H5 strains have now been found in birds throughout much of the world (though not yet in the Americas), and human illness has occurred in 14 countries throughout Asia and in northern Africa.

The much-feared rapid spread through and between communities, however, has not occurred. Aside from small clusters of cases within families, each human case has been associated with close contact with poultry. The culling of poultry in the face of recognized bird disease has been a major defense strategy since the first outbreak.



<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/358/24/2540>

PANDEMIC/AVIAN FLU IN THE MEDIA

Homeland Security Insight and Analysis

June 10, 2008

The US government's new [proposal](#) to use drugs like Tamiflu and Relenza as a prophylaxis to prevent infection by a pandemic strain of influenza is wrongheaded, says Dr. Graeme Laver, a former professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at the John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University in Canberra.

<http://hstoday.us/content/view/3741/150>

CIDRAP News - June 5, 2008

Indonesia's health minister said today the government has stopped the practice of promptly notifying global health officials each time it confirms a human H5N1 avian influenza case or death, a move some say will likely hamper efforts to monitor the world's pandemic risk level.

Health Minister Siti Fadilah Supari today confirmed that a 15-year-old girl from Jakarta tested positive for H5N1 avian influenza on May 13 and died the next day, according to a report from the Associated Press (AP). Indonesia's National Committee for Avian Influenza Control and Pandemic Influenza had previously listed the case as confirmed on its Web site, but the information is apparently no longer listed.

The WHO, which typically confirms cases when it receives notifications from health ministries or test results from its collaborating laboratories, has not yet confirmed Indonesia's most recent case and has not commented on Supari's decision to stop sending out H5N1 case notifications. The WHO's last confirmed an Indonesian H5N1 case, in a 3-year old boy who died on April 23, on April 30.

Supari told the AP that the health ministry would not send out H5N1 case confirmations until after they have been reported in the media. However, Reuters reported today that the ministry will announce the death toll from the H5N1 virus only every 6 months.

"How does it help us to announce these deaths?" Supari told the AP. "We want to focus now on positive steps and achievements made by the government in fighting bird flu."

She told Reuters that announcements of H5N1 deaths are sometimes misunderstood. "It's OK not to announce it. Sometimes they only give hurtful comments instead of helping," she said without further explanation.

Indonesia has been hit hardest of any country by the H5N1 virus. According to the WHO's most recent count, the country has had 133 cases and 108 deaths.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/avianflu/jun0508indonesia.html>

Vietnam News - June 5, 2008

Vietnam has not seen any new avian flu patients for the past 100 days, reported the national steering committee on avian flu, although it warned that ongoing work to contain the flu was not over yet.

Director of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health Nguyen Huy Nga said that in May the flu outbreak had spread to the provinces of Tra Vinh, Kien Giang, Nghe An and Ha Tinh and the city of Can Tho.

The possibility of the deadly virus being transmitted from infected poultry to humans was still high, he said, noting that the situation could be exacerbated during the harvest of upcoming crops when domestic fowls are often set loose to feed on the fields.

The Health Ministry has beefed up its preparation against the avian flu by organizing a training workshop for task forces at the provincial level; tightening the border quarantine and promoting communication activities.

<http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/>

Reuters News .COM - June 3, 2008

Tyson Foods Inc, the second largest U.S. chicken producer, said on Tuesday it will destroy about 15,000 chickens in Arkansas exposed to a mild strain of bird flu, and while there was no risk to human health the news sent its shares lower.

The affected chickens, which will not enter the food supply, had antibodies of a mild or low pathogenic strain of bird flu called H7N3.

It is the deadly high pathogenic H5N1 strain, which has never been found in the United States, that worries scientists because it has spread to and killed people around the world.



While the findings are no threat to humans, shares of U.S. chicken companies dropped as investors worried foreign buyers may ban U.S. chicken. The United States exports about 16 percent of its chicken, and a loss of key overseas markets could create a glut of chicken here.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/>

We're on the Web!

[http://sdpandemicfacts.org/
resources.htm#newsletters](http://sdpandemicfacts.org/resources.htm#newsletters)

RESOURCES

- County Vector Control Program's (888) 551-INFO (4636) for info on how to protect birds, or to report dead birds.
- HHSA's Avian and Pandemic Flu Info Line (619) 515-6900 for info regarding avian and pandemic flu.
- Educational materials are available for public distribution and are also downloadable from the county website: www.sdbirdflu.org or www.sdpandemicflu.org. Click on "Pandemic Flu".
- National Geographic International Edition: www.nationalgeographic.com
- World Health Organization (WHO): www.who.int
- Federal Dept. of Health & Human Services: www.pandemicflu.gov
- Federal CDC site: www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic
- State of California: www.dhs.ca.gov
- County of San Diego: www.sdbirdflu.org
- The Poultry Site: www.thepoultrysite.com

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